

**APPLICANT: RALF WICHMANN *ET AL.***

**ART UNIT: TO BE ASSIGNED**

**EXAMINER: TO BE ASSIGNED**

Asst. Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to fee calculation and examination please amend the above-identified application as follows.

### In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-15.

Please add the following new claims.

- -16. A bleach or bleach/fixing solution for processing photographic silver halide materials which, relative to the silver halide content of the unprocessed material, exhibit prior to the bleaching step, a content of silver arising from development of at least 65 mol%, and the solution comprises at least one iron complex of propylenediaminetetraacetic acid or of  $\beta$ -alaninediacetic acid or a mixture thereof and the total concentration of said iron complexes in the solution is at least 0.045 and at most 0.25 mol/l.

17. The solution according to claim 16, wherein the solution is a bleach solution.
18. The solution according to claim 16, wherein the solution contains at least one iron complex of propylenediaminetetraacetic acid.
19. The solution according to claim 16, wherein the solution contains substantially no further iron/aminopolycarboxylic acid complex.
20. A bleach or bleach/fixing solution used in the processing of color reversal silver halide materials, which comprises a solution which contains at least one iron complex of propylenediaminetetraacetic acid or of  $\beta$ -alaninediacetic acid or a mixture thereof and the total concentration of said iron complexes in the solution is at least 0.045 and at most 0.25 mol/l.
21. A preparation for producing, regenerating or rejuvenating the bleach or bleach/fixing solution according to claim 16, wherein the preparation contains one or more components and contains substantially all the necessary chemicals.
22. The preparation according to claim 21, wherein the preparation comprises a concentrated solution.
23. A process for processing color reversal silver halide materials comprising a bleaching step, wherein said bleaching step is performed using a solution which contains at least one iron complex of propylenediaminetetraacetic acid or of  $\beta$ -alaninediacetic acid or a mixture thereof and the total concentration of the stated iron complexes in the solution is at least 0.045 and at most 0.25 mol/l.
24. The process for processing color reversal materials according to claim 23, wherein the materials comprise a transparent support.
25. The process for processing color reversal materials according to claim 23, wherein prior to the bleaching step, the process comprises at least the steps:

first development,  
 reversal step and  
 color development.

26. The process for processing color reversal materials according to claim 23, wherein the process comprises a separate fixing step after the bleaching step.
27. The process for processing color reversal materials according to claim 23, wherein, prior to the bleaching step, the material passes through a conditioning bath.
28. The process for processing color reversal materials according to claim 23, wherein the process equilibrium of the solution used for the bleaching step is maintained by apportioning a regenerator.
29. The process for processing color reversal materials according to claim 28, wherein the process equilibrium of the solution used for the bleaching step is maintained by directly apportioning a preparation which comprises a concentrated solution.
30. The process for processing color reversal materials according to claim 23, wherein the process equilibrium of the solution used for the bleaching step is maintained by apportioning a solution obtained from the bath overflow after rejuvenation.
31. The solution according to claim 16, wherein the bleach bath contains no ammonium ions.
32. The solution according to claim 16, wherein there is at least 80 mol% of materials having a bleaching proportion.
33. The solution according to claim 16, wherein there is at least 90 mol% of materials having a bleaching proportion.
34. The solution according to claim 16, wherein the bleach bath has a total quantity of silver of at least 6 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

35. The solution according to claim 16, wherein the bleach bath has a total quantity of silver of at least 7.5 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
36. The solution according to claim 16, wherein the bleach bath uses materials in which at least 6.3 grams of silver must be bleached during the processing. - -

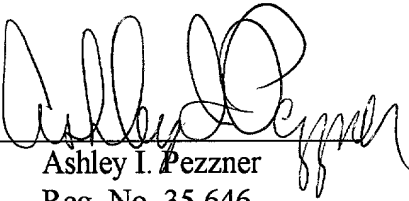
**REMARKS**

The applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment be entered prior to fee calculation and examination. Support for newly added claims 16-30 can be found in the original claims 1-15. The applicants have rewritten these claims in the proper U.S. form. Support for newly added claims 31-33 can be found in the specification at page 4, lines 9-23. Support for newly added claims 34-36 can be found in the specification at page 5, lines 4-11. An additional fee of \$18.00 is enclosed for the extra total claim over 20. No additional fees are due. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

A prompt and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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